

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN NEA-09

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:ASCHIFFERDECKER:MRC

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BMEP AF

SUBJECT: BECHTEL INTEREST IN GOA PROJECTS

REF: KABUL 8037 ET AL.

1. BECHTEL, INC., SAN FRANCISCO, HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN GROWING LIST OF POTENTIAL GOA MAJOR PROJECTS. FOLLOWING CONTACTS WITH COMMERCE AND STATE TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL PROJECTS OUTLINED REFTELS, BECHTEL HAS SENT CABLE TO ENG. MOHAMMAD HASHEM TOUFIQI, PRESIDENT, INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES (TEXT PARA. 4 BELOW), EXPRESSING PARTICULAR INTEREST IN GAS LIQUEFACTION PLANT.

2. FORMER AMBASSADOR PARKER T. HART OF BECHTEL'S WASHINGTON OFFICE CALLED ON CONSTABLE AND SCHIFFERDECKER, NEA/PAB, JANUARY 10 TO DISCUSS LIST OF TEN MAJOR PROJECTS. DISCUSSION INCLUDED GENERAL POLITICAL REVIEW OF REGION, AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON OIL PRODUCERS' PLEDGES TO FUND FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND PROJECTS, GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF MINERAL, OIL AND GAS DEPOSITS, AND SOVIET AID ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN (ADDITIONAL DETAILS IN SCHIFFERDECKER-RAU LETTER OF JANUARY 15).

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3. HART SAID COMPANY IS CONSIDERING SENDING REPRESENTATIVE

TO KABUL FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA -- A MOVE WE URGED ON
GROUNDS THAT PERSONAL CONTACT AT SOME EARLY STAGE

ESSENTIAL. BECHTEL DECIDED INITIALLY, HOWEVER, TO SEND
CABLE ON JANUARY 14 TO TOUFIQI TO GIVE EARLY INDICATION
OF INTEREST. HART REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY INQUIRE TO
ENSURE MESSAGE RECEIVED AND TO ASSIST WITH ANY NECESSARY
FOLLOW UP. AN EARLY AND FAVORABLE REPLY INVITING
BECHTEL REP TO VISIT KABUL IS OBVIOUSLY THE MOST DESIRABLE
RESPONSE.

4. QUOTE: WE UNDERSTAND YOUR MINISTRY IS PLANNING TO
HAVE PERFORMED A TECHNICAL AND FEASIBILITY STUDY OF
ALTERNATE USES OF NATURAL GAS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE
INSTALLATION OF A GAS LIQUEFACTION PLANT. THE BECHTEL
ORGANIZATION IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST ENGINEERING
AND CONSTRUCTORS FOR MAJOR FACILITIES SUCH AS GAS
LIQUEFACTION, CHEMICAL, REFINERY, POWER, INDUSTRIAL,
MINING, METALLURGICAL PLANTS AND PIPELINE.

IN ADDITION, BECHTEL PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS ON TECHNICAL
AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND MAINTAINS A LARGE GROUP OF
SPECIALISTS TO PERFORM STUDY SERVICES FOR GOVERNMENTAL
AND INDUSTRIAL CLIENTS WORLDWIDE. IF WE CAN ASSIST
YOUR MINISTRY WITH ITS VERY INTERESTING PROGRAM, PLEASE
ADVISE US YOUR STUDY REQUIREMENTS, SCHEDULE AND OTHER
PERTINENT INFORMATION.

PLEASE DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS AS FOLLOWS TO ENABLE US TO
RESPOND PROMPTLY. CABLE TO: RICHARD L. WALKER, BECHTEL,
INC. CABLE ADDRESS: WATEKA, SAN FRANCISCO, USA. INTER-
NATIONAL TELEX: 6730 (WUI). LETTER TO: RICHARD L. WALKER,
BECHTEL, INC., P.O. BOX 3965, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
94119, USA. SIGNED RICHARD L. WALKER. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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